

City of Ashland – Sustainability Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2023

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm HYBRID MEETING: GOTO and

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS (601 Main Street W)

Energy Action Plan, 25x25 Plan, Sourcewater Protection Plan linked here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/ashland-sustainability/themes>

Present: Dale Kupczyk, Lissa Radke, Laura Graf, Amy Amman, Kate Ullman, Axel Peterman

Others Present: Steven Wiley, Matt Mac Kenzie

Absent: Adam Zais (Excused)

Agenda

1) Approval of Agenda

The Committee approved the agenda at 6:06 pm.

2) Approval of minutes from the December 15, 2022 meeting

Graf motioned and Kupczyk seconded to approve the minutes from the December 15th, 2022 meeting. No one had any revisions so the motion carried.

3) Citizen Comments

Mayor Mac Kenzie thanked the committee for the work they do. He provided a few examples of initiatives that started with the committee and are now in progress. He asked the committee to continue looking at things and if they made sense the City could implement them. Committee members thanked the Mayor for attending.

4) Projects/Discussions

a) Waste and Recycling

i. Recycling guidelines flyer – Update

Wiley provided an update on the flyer. Committee members asked for additional clarity on where to take non-recyclable items. Ullman asked Radke if there was a way to include the Clean Sweep flyer back to back with the recycling flyer. Radke answered that she could put a Clean Sweep flyer together. Wiley explained that he needed to finalize the flyer by February 6th. Graf asked if the information could also be posted online. Wiley answered that this was possible. Committee members discussed specific items such as paper cartons, plastic bags, medications, and Christmas lights and stated that it was important to provide information on where to take these. Radke asked if there was anything in the City's contract with Republic that stipulated whether Republic needed to provide reports on what they recycled annually. Ullman suggested looking at this with Republic the next time the contract came up. Kupczyk was interested in data on how much was recycled versus landfilled annually.

b) Climate Change

i. 25x25 Plan further discussion

Ullman explained that two years ago the committee made a recommendation to Council for Public Works to update City lighting to LED over the next few

years. She would like a report on how much lighting was converted. Lighting was the easiest starting point for the 25 x 25 Plan. Kupczyk stated that it should be on the City's budget to replace some windows each year in City Hall. Mayor Mac Kenzie mentioned the engineering report (study) done recently and that windows were included in it.

ii. Police Department Solar – Update

Wiley provided an update. Kupczyk explained that there is a house on Chapple where the roof is at a steep angle and the panels there have been covered since the first snow. He suggested looking into whether or not it matters to change the angle prior to the City spending money to do so. During winter months there is little generation. Amman stated that there are ways to clean off the panels. Radke suggested that the City contact Bill Bailey who is the founder of Cheq Bay Renewables as he is very knowledgeable and can give good input. The committee suggested that staff with Bill Bailey and wait until snow melts off the panels in order to troubleshoot the problem.

iii. City Energy

Ullman explained that she started working with Sara Hudson and Xcel Energy on getting some data on City energy usage. The goal is to understand our energy usage over time. The plan involved efficiency upgrades and conservation but without data we do not know whether or not these have an impact. She wanted to look at the data and see if energy usage in buildings went down and by how much. Graf mentioned that the computer changes in the past few years will help us become more efficient also. Ullman suggested the City could develop a purchasing policy for electronics. The Inflation Reduction Act also could have good incentives for municipalities. She suggested checking with Bill Bailey on this. Mayor Mac Kenzie explained that some of the departments have implemented some changes such as the police looking at hybrid vehicles. Radke mentioned a webinar from earlier in the day that teaches local governments how to access grants for energy.

c) Water

i. Develop Sourcewater Protection Plan initial Recommendations

Ullman asked the Mayor if anyone has had conversations. Mayor Mac Kenzie knew the City had a source water committee. Kupczyk suggested looking at it again at a future meeting and keeping it on the agenda.

d) Annual Report for City Council

Ullman stated that she and Peterman have not touched base but we can keep it on the agenda. Radke has the following list from the October – December meetings:

- Events or Outreach

- No Mow May

- Flier about what's recyclable/Cleansweeps in city water bills

- Solar Panel Installations at City Council Meeting–Adam Zais

- Recommendations to City Council

- Adopt recycled content paper use

- City send a representative to Ashland County's EV work group

- Issues Explored
 - Dark Sky Initiative
 - Community Garden partnership on Beaser Ave.
 - LED lights on city property
 - EVs and charging stations
- Resolutions submitted to City Council
 - Gratitude for John Butler for visionary improvements to city infrastructure to reduce sewage overflows
- e) Solar Incentives Proposal
 - Mayor Mac Kenzie suggested looking at things and making recommendations that would help the Planning Department. This would be particularly true for historic districts. An example included decals that look like roofing.
- 5) Future agenda items
 - Ullman has the Complete Streets framework and she explained that she spoke with people on this. She would like to look at how the City can implement it. Mayor Mac Kenzie mentioned that the state is also pushing on this with the redo of Ellis Avenue for example. Kupczyk mentioned the recycling guide and clarifying for example whether certain items such as hard cover books can be recycled. Radke asked if perhaps Republic would Zoom in or come to a Council meeting and explain what can be recycled. Staff could record this and put it on the website. Mayor Mac Kenzie asked that the committee get him examples of things that they think should be included in the recycling flyer and he would loop back with the manager at Republic. Ullman asked Wiley to clarify with Republic on which flyer is correct and send out in the mailing the side with the list of items.
- 6) Adjournment Kupczyk made a motion and Graf seconded. The committee voted to adjourn at 7:11 pm.

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